UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1992/NGO/3
12 February 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-sixth session
Vienna, 11-20 March 1992
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES

DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT; WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Soroptimist International (category I); Associated Country Women of the World, International Federation for Home Economics, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II); and European Union of Women and International Inner Wheel (roster)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The above-named non-governmental organizations,

Wholeheartedly welcome the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women to give attention under the priority theme of development (ii) women and the environment,

Concerned: in particular,

With women's role in environmental management,

With women's experiences in protecting the environment as well as human and natural resources,

With the decision-making with regard to environmental policies, projects and funding,

With the urgent need for educational programmes in the field of environment specifically for women,

With women's influence as consumers,

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*E/CN.6/1992/1.

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Note with much appreciation the findings of the Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: "Partners for Life" held at Miami, Florida, in 1991,

Endorse the following recommendations:

Successful projects at the grass-roots level should lead to more concerted policies and action at the national level. Mechanisms should be established to incorporate the experience, talents and contribution by women into national policies and programmes;

Women should be party to the allocation of funds and resources from national authorities or international lending agencies;

The needs and views of women must be incorporated in the establishment of priorities in the management of human and natural resources. Women should also be involved in setting priorities in this action;

National and international funding sources for environmental projects should establish procedures for including and consulting women prior to project design or making and investment;

Appropriate research to identify the type of potential impact on people's lives of environmental and development projects should be made available to both public and private institutions, including academia;

Invite Governments:

To develop systems whereby women are proportionally represented in decision-making positions with regard to environmental policies, programme planning, funding etc.;

To develop programmes on environmental education at all levels with specific emphasis for girls and women;

To establish institutions for environment counselling at all levels using women's special experiences.

The above-named non-governmental organizations, being fully aware of their role and responsibility to cooperate, would like to draw the attention of the delegates of the Commission to the fact that environmental questions are not confined by national borders. They urge the Commission not only to promote multi-lateral cooperation but also to make use of women's readiness to cooperate.